



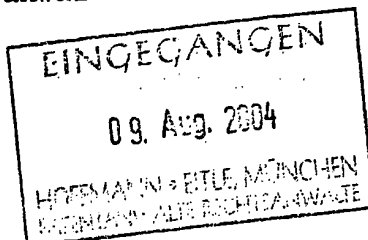
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Datum/Date

05.08.2004

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 101 085 a/km	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 03026174.7-1234/
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire Sysmex Corporation	

004

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.  
This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



### Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent  
Office

# PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 03 02 6174

Application Number

## DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 97/14967 A (BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS INC) 24 April 1997 (1997-04-24) * page 7, lines 12-24 * * page 9, lines 14-27 * * page 10, lines 15-33; figures 1-5 * -----	1-29	G01N35/00 G01N35/10 B01L3/02
X	WO 00/69389 A (CARTER NICK M ; GEN PROBE INC (US); IHEME MORDI I (US); LIGHT JAMES P) 23 November 2000 (2000-11-23) * page 29, lines 1-15; figure 16 * -----	12,13, 23-25	
X	US 3 063 451 A (KOWALK ARTHUR J) 13 November 1962 (1962-11-13) * column 2, lines 3-18; figure 7 * -----	12-16, 18,19,23	
A	US 4 743 243 A (VAILLANCOURT VINCENT L) 10 May 1988 (1988-05-10) * column 8, lines 7-50; figure 6 * -----	12-29	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61J A61M G01N

## LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague	19 July 2004	Cantalapiedra, I
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category		
A : technological background		
O : non-written disclosure		
P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
D : document cited in the application		
L : document cited for other reasons		
& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-29

sample analyzer comprising a liquid aspirator with venting  
system  
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2. claims: 30-39

Sample analyzer comprising bubble sensors  
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3. claims: 40-53

Sample analyzer comprising an adaptor for holding sample  
containers  
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4. claims: 54-75

Sample analyzer comprising a preparation system with a  
syringe pump unit having two syringe pumps, a connection  
section and a driving source.  
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 02 6174

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
- The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

19-07-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9714967	A	24-04-1997	AU 7450296 A	07-05-1997
			WO 9714967 A1	24-04-1997
WO 0069389	A	23-11-2000	AU 770972 B2	11-03-2004
			AU 4846800 A	05-12-2000
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			US 2003207463 A1	06-11-2003
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			US 2004105786 A1	03-06-2004
			US 2001039058 A1	08-11-2001
US 3063451	A	13-11-1962	NONE	
US 4743243	A	10-05-1988	NONE	



## ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

03026174.7

A sample analyzer includes a liquid aspirator to be stuck into the closed container for aspirating a sample from a closed container; the liquid aspirator including an elongated pipe, the pipe having a liquid flow path extending therein and a plurality of recesses (34,35,36) provided in an outer surface thereof, at least one of the recesses (34,35,36) communicating between an inside and an outside of the container when the pipe is stuck into the container, to let the internal pressure of the container back to the atmospheric pressure.